

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-6 and 10-21 remain in the application. Claims 1-6 and 10-21 are subject to examination. Claims 1, 10 and 17 have been amended. Claims 7-9 have been canceled.

In previous Office Actions under the heading "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102", claims 1-6, 13-16 and 21 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,757,918 to Hopkins (hereinafter Hopkins) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In item 4 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that claims 9-12 and 17-20 are allowable. In view of the allowability, Applicants have amended their claims as now described.

The features of claims 7 and 9 have been incorporated into claim 1.

The features of claims 1, 7 and 8 have been incorporated into claim 17.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 or 17. Claims 1 and

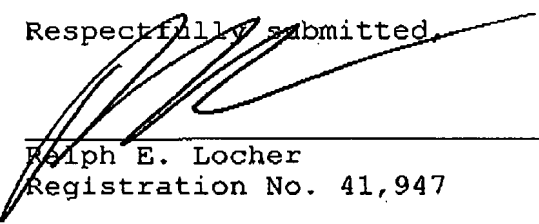
17 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 1 or 17.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6 and 10-21 are solicited.

If an extension of time is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Any extension fee associated therewith should be charged to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stemer, LLP, No. 12-1099.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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